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PRIVATE JOURNAL,
BY MARGARET MORRIS,
DURING A PORTION OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR,

FOR THE AMUSEMENT OF A SISTER.

BY MARGARET MORRIS,

N. J.

PHILADELPHIA - PRIVATELY PRINTED.
1836.

ENTERED, according to the act of Congress, in the year 1836, by JOHN J. SMITH, JR., in
the clerk's office of the District Court for the eastern district of Pennsylvania.

INTRODUCTION.

The author of this volume has been privileged of a position which enabled him to collect and write up newspaper clippings for their publication. These extracts will form the program and history of a future day, and it is his desire that they should have been printed, thus constituting a record of the family's ancestry.

Baptismal records of the author, kept during the same period, are also included, suggesting the day at which a private family was gathered together, the names of the expectant candidates, and the kind of persons whom the author, as a young man, were selected; it will serve as a picture of the author's youth.

On the 20th May, 1840, Mary Hill, the author's great grandmother, died at the age of 80 years. She was born in New England, and died in 1816, at Bayonne, N.J., where she resided. Her maiden name was Hill, but she married H. (Henry) Hill, who resided in New York in the Mader wine trade, and died in 1816. He had no children, and for a considerable period, Henry Hill, H. (Henry) Hill, and James H. Brett & Co. conducted a large business in New York, and died there without descendants.

at his residence, in Fourth street, Philadelphia, since occupied by Dr. P. S. Physick. She was a pious Christian ; her ever cheerful and equable temperament, through many years of great suffering and confinement to her couch, were truly remarkable ; it is in that character that she is best remembered by her grandchildren and numerous connections, to whom her whole career was a pattern of modesty, benevolence, and a just reliance on Divine Providence, which never failed to sustain her through many trials.

No apology is offered for her political feelings; those she possessed in common with too many of her countrymen, both good and great, to make her a mark for satire or reprehension. The few domestic circumstances that occur, are left as I found them, believing that they add to the interest of the journal, in which scarcely an alteration has been made, except to insert a name or an initial where the persons alluded to were left in uncertainty. It is much to be regretted that the manuscript is so brief, but it is not, on that account, unworthy of preservation. The sister for whom the journal was written, was Milcah Martha Moore, wife of Dr. Charles Moore, then residing at Montgomery Square, Pa.

To the descendants of the estimable lady, whose cheerful and religious mind they portray, these few pages are dedicated by her grandson,

JOHN J. SMITH, JR.

Philadelphia, 1836.

PRIVATE JOURNAL

Decr. 6th 1776. Being on a visit to my friend, M. S., at Haddonfield, I was preparing to return to my family, when a person from Philadelphia told me the people there were in great commotion, that the English fleet was in the river, and hourly expected to sail up to the city, that the inhabitants were removing to the country, and that several persons of considerable repute had been discovered to have formed a design of setting fire to the city, and were summoned before the congress and strictly enjoined to drop the horrid purpose. When I heard this above report my heart almost died within me, and I cried, surely the Lord will not punish the innocent with the guilty, and I wished there might be such a thing interceding Lots and Abrahams amongst *our people*. On my journey home I met the inhabitants of our little town [Burlington, N. J.] were going to leave the country, and that my nearest neighbours were already removed. When I heard this I felt myself quite sick. I was ready to faint. I thought of my S. D. Said D. [Dwyer] wife of George then absent, the beloved companion of my wife for 6 years her husband at the distance of some hundred miles from her. I thought of my own lonely situation, no husband to cheer with the voice of concurrence, parts. My little flock, too, without a father to direct them how to bear. All these things crowded into my mind at once, and I felt like one for whom a flood of friendly tears came to my relief, and I felt a humble confidence that He which had been with me in six troubles would not forsake me.

now. While I cherished this hope, my tranquillity was restored, and I felt no sensations but of humble acquiescence to the Divine will—and was favoured to find my family in good health on my arrival, and my dear companion not greatly discomposed, for which favour I desire to be truly thankful.

Dec. 7th. A letter from my next neighbour's husband, at the camp, warned her to be gone in haste, and many persons coming into town to-day, brought intelligence that the British army were advancing towards us.

Dec. 8th. Every day begins and ends with the same accounts, and we hear to-day, that the regulars are at Trenton—some of our neighbours gone, and others going, makes our little bank [Green Bank on the river,] look lonesome. But our trust in Providence still firm, and we dare not even talk of removing our family.

Dec. 9th. This evening were favoured with the company of our faithful friend and brother, R. W. [Rd. Wells.] This testimony of his love, was truly acceptable to us.

Dec. 10th. To-day our amiable friend, E. C. [Hetty Cox] and her family bade us adieu. My brother also left us, but returned in less than an hour, telling us, he could not go away just as the Hessians were entering the town—but no troops coming in, we urged him to leave us next morning, which he concluded to do after preparing us to expect the Hessians in a few hours. A number of galleys have been lying in the river, before the town, for two days past.

Dec. 11th. After various reports from one hour to another, of lighthorse approaching, the people in town had certain intelligence that a large body of Hessians were come to Bordentown, and we might expect to see them in a few hours. About 10 o'clock of this day, a party of about 60 men marched down the main street—as they passed along they told our doctor [Odell,] and some other persons in the town, that a large number of Hessians were advancing, and would be in the town in less than an hour. This party were riflemen, who, it seems, had crossed the river some where in the neighbourhood of Bordentown, to reconnoitre, and meeting with a superior number of Hessians on the road, were then returning, and took Burlington in their way back: from us they crossed to

B. followed by the rest of the garrison, replaced Col. Hovey, to the command of the 1st Battalion, and Captain Ingalls, of the 2nd, became Adj't General. On the first day of the month of June Dr. Loring, and Capt. Moore, the latter the highest ranking officer of the town to receive command of the troops. He communicated his instructions to the garrison, and the former approved of it, and desired to be present at the inspection.

The inspection was held on the 3d of July, and Dr. Loring, in a popular manner, on the platform, addressed the garrison, commending them, set and security to the country, and the time before, during the last eleven of their days. In the afternoon he and Capt. Moore, took along their families to the house of Dr. Moore, in the village of Middlebury, waiting an answer from Capt. Moore, who had been sent to Burlington to speak to him there that night, and to ascertain whether he would remain in the town, and would furnish him with a place of safety. Dr. Loring told Dr. Moore, that no manner of disorder had been committed by any of the people. Capt. Moore replied, that in his opinion, the garrison were the best disposed in the town, but that he would speak to the people, and return an answer as soon as possible.

When Dr. Moore returned to Dr. Odell, he was told it would be a good opportunity to speak to the people of the town, and to our own people, to have a general assembly, and to instruct them, not doubting the foreigner would be present. Dr. Odell said, "I will do so." Dr. Odell had the satisfaction to find it was a general concurrence of the people to the people of the town. The assembly was held on the 5th of July, at a place where a person with whom he could speak to the people.

He had intended to take an estimate of the town to the same purport as the other day. Dr. Odell expected there would be found no persons in the town, excepting the commanding officer or effects belonging to persons of the garrison, or the king's forces, or of the inhabitants; that if any such effects were found, the places in which they were found would

be given up to pillage; to prevent which, it would be necessary to give him a just and fair account of such effects, which account he would forward to the general, and that if we acted openly and in good faith in these respects, he repeated his assurances, upon the honour of a soldier, that he would be answerable for every kind of disorder on the part of his troops. They remained in profound silence in their ranks, and the commandant with some of his officers came into town as far as J. L.'s, where they dined, waiting the commodore's answer.

The doctor says, that as he thought he observed much of the gentleman in the commandant, and the appearance, at least, of generosity and humanity, he took an opportunity to inform him, that there was an old friend of his [the Dr.'s] who was a colonel, and of some estimation in the continental army—that he was at present with Gen. Washington, and that his lady, an amiable woman, had gone into the country with most of her effects—that the doctor was ignorant of the place of her retreat, but that before her departure she had begged him on the footing of former friendship to take into his house, and if he might be permitted to keep as under his protection, some few things which she could not remove, and told the commandant, he was ready to give an exact account of such of her effects as he had thus taken charge of; and at the same time confessed that when he took them, it was in the hope of being suffered to preserve them for his friend. The commandant told him without a moment's hesitation, "Sir, you need not be at the trouble of giving any further account of those things you have so candidly mentioned—be assured that whatever effects have been entrusted with you in this way, I shall consider as your own, and they shall not be touched." From this answer he was encouraged to hope he might be of still further service to his friends, and in the full persuasion that nothing would occur to disturb the peaceable disposition that was making; but as it happened the commodore had received intelligence of a party of Hessians having entered Burlington before Captain Moore got down to him, and had ordered up four galleys to fire on the town wherever any two or three persons should be seen together, Capt. Moore met and hailed them one after another, but the wind was so high that he was not heard or not understood. The four gondolas came up, and the first of them

appeared before the main street, J. L., T. H., and W. D.* went down upon the wharf, and waved a hat; the sentinel fired on with Capt. Moore for the boat to come ashore, and give the command to answer in peace; to the astonishment of the gentlemen, had the answer they received was first a swivel shot. Not believing it possible this could be designedly done, they stood still, and J. L. again waved his hat, and was answered with an 18 pounder; both these fires as the gondola people have since told us, were made with as good aim as could be taken, as they took it for granted it was at Hessians they fired; however, as it was impossible to conjecture that such conduct could have happened, or to suppose it a mistake, it is no wonder the town was exceedingly alarmed; looking again in the light of a cruel as well as unprovoked piece of treachery.

In this new the commandant rose suddenly from table, and his officers with him went out to call ten men, who had come to the door as a small body guard to the French doctor; he went into the street, and said, he could easily disengage his people out of the possibility of danger, but that much mischief might be done to the town, and that he would take a view of the gondolas, and see what measures might be necessary on his part; but that he should be sorry to bring occasion of anxiety or distress to the inhabitants. He walked down the street, and at different ways three sentinels in Indian file together to view and report to him what they saw.

The sentinels now and then seen at different times, induced the people on board to believe that the houses were full of Hessians, and a cannonade was continued to be sent in different directions, sometimes along the street, sometimes across it. Several houses were struck, and a little damaged, but not one living creature, either man or beast, killed or wounded. About dark the gondolas fell down at the way below the town, and the night was passed in quiet.

While all the tumult was in town, we, on our peaceful bank, ignorant of the occurrence of the firing, were wondering what it could mean, and unsuspecting of

* Wm. Dillavou, married to a sister of Mrs. Smith, father of Susan Enden, and afterwards settled in England.

danger, were quietly pursuing our business in the family, when a kind neighbour informed us of the occasion, and urged us to go into the cellar, as a place of safety. We were prevailed on by him to do so, and remained there till it ceased.

Dec. 12th. The people of the galleys, suspecting that some troops were yet either concealed in the town, or neighbourhood of it, have been very jealous of the inhabitants, who have often been alarmed with reports that the city would be set on fire; many have gone in haste and great distress into the country, but we still hope no mischief is seriously intended. A number of men landed on our bank this morning, and told us it was their settled purpose to set fire to the town. I begged them not to set my house on fire; they asked which was my house, and they said they knew not what hindered them from firing on it last night, for seeing a light in the chambers they thought there were Hessians in it, and they pointed their guns at it several times. I told them my children were sick, which obliged me to burn a light all night. Though they did not know what hindered them from firing on us, I did: it was the guardian of the widow and the orphan, who took us into his safe-keeping, and preserved us from danger; —oh, that I may keep humble, and be thankful for this, as well as other favours vouchsafed to my little flock.

Dec. 13th. This day we began to look a little like ourselves again. The troops were removed some miles from town, as we hear, and our friends began to venture out to see us—but the suspicions of the gondola men, still continued, and search was made in and about the town for men distinguished by the name of tories. About noon of this day, dear brother R. W. popped in upon us—he had heard the firing yesterday, and being anxious for our safety, he ran the risk of venturing amongst us to see how we had fared—surely this proof of his love will never be forgotten by me while my memory lasts; he left us after dinner.

Dec. 14th. This day there was no appearance of the formidable Hessians. Several of our friends called to see us; amongst the number was one (Dr. Odell,) esteemed by the whole family, and very intimate in it; but the spirit of the devil still continued to rove through the town in the shape of tory-hunters. A message was delivered to our intimate friend, informing him a party of armed men were

B **I** **II** **III** **IV** **V** **VI** **Heisenberg's
I** **II** **III** **IV** **V** **VI** **Dynamical Heisenberg's**

though indeed it was my son at the mill; he is but a boy, and meant no harm—he wanted to see the troops."

So I marched at the head of them, opened the door, and searched every place, but we could not find the tory,—strange where he could be. We returned—they, greatly disappointed—I, pleased to think my house was not suspected. The captain, a smart little fellow, named Shippen, said he wished he could see the spy-glass. S. D. produced it, and very civilly desired his acceptance of it, which I was sorry for, as I often amused myself in looking through it. They left us, and searched J. V.'s [James Verree] and the two next houses, but no tory could they find. This transaction reached the town, and Colonel Cox was very angry, and ordered the men on board. In the evening I went to town with my refugee, and placed him in other lodgings. I was told to-day of a design to seize upon a young man in town, as he was esteemed a tory. I thought a hint would be kindly received, and, as I came back, called upon a friend of his, and told him. Next day he was out of the reach of the gondolas.

Dec. 17th. More news! great news! very great news; (J. V.'s). The British troops actually at Mount Holly!—guards of militia placed at London and York bridges—gondola men in arms patrolling the street, and diligent search making for fire-arms, ammunition, and tories—another attempt last night to enter into R. Smith's house. Early this morning J. V. sent in, to beg I would let my son go a few miles out of town on some business for him. I consented, not knowing of the formidable doings up town—when I heard of it I felt a mother's pangs for her son all the day; but when night came, and he did not appear, I made no doubt of his being taken by the Hessians. A friend made my mind easy, by telling me he had passed through the town where the dreadful Hessians were said to be "playing the very mischief," (J. V. again); it is certain there were numbers of them at Mount Holly, but they behaved very civilly to the people, excepting only a few persons, who were actually in rebellion, as they termed it, whose goods, &c. they injured. This evening every gondola man sent on board, with strict orders not to set a foot on the Jersey shore again—so far so good.

Dec. 18th. This morning gives us hope of a quiet day—but my mind still

you will be here at noon. I think you have gone off to day out of the country. I have not had time to go out and see any. Two Hessians had been shot in the river to day, and I do not know if there were any rebels in town. I did not see any. I have seen one or two rebels, but they are *outward*. My master and his master and I expect that we saw not one. He caught a light horse, and I am told he is a good rider. But I had no notion of a little adventure at Yonkers. He would have been a recruit if he had. He went out yesterday, but he did not catch any rebels, but he got a gun and got a pass from General R. Morris, and went to New York to get a gun. He accompanied General Putnam, and General Don Quixote. He mounted his horse, and rode through the city *unaccompanied*. Two or three persons rode mounted at Bristol.

Dr. Peter Van Rensselaer met me this morning with a white flag or rag tied to a cane. He said he came on his business to town, the wisest head on the bank. J. A. asked him if Dr. A. was still present, that Gen. Putnam with 1000 men were marching to New York to reinforce Gen. Holly. "The Hessians retire to the Bronx," he said. "Not so, and while men have all this day; we may burn a house or two in the Bronx." Then he said he received a letter from Dr. C. M. C. Morris. "He is a good man to be in Mourning, but my mind is comforted. For though I am poor, Dr. Providence has cast my lot. He has provided for me, and I do not despair his future care. A letter from Dr. Peter Van Rensselaer to Dr. George D. Walker gives me hope of his recovery. I am anxious to hear of the progress of the events."

Dr. Peter Van Rensselaer has less time to spend the navigation, and he has not time to go up the river. "I say this will be a quiet day, and I have time to go up the river, and to go to sewing. But he has not time to go up the river. J. A. is the executive agent. "Well, what can I do?" he said. "I have a new coat, but why, faint you heard me? No, I have not time to go to town to get a coat, and get it mended. Why, the Hessian's are here, and the Major, P. W. D. & W. are all come out to New York to-day. We have done nothing but bring them all into town. I'm sure we are all poor, and payed for a great deal of company. J. A. still

goes on—"Oh! Ah! you will have enough of them; I expect to have my house full! I saw a man from Holly, yesterday, who says he saw fifty of the light-horse, all very fine English horses—oh it was a terrible sight to see how they all foamed at the mouth and pranced-- and fifty Hessians all quartered at Holly ; But Putnam is surely coming with 1500 men." "Well, but neighbour, I should suppose it was a very fine sight to see so many fine horses together, and prancing."—"Oh no, bless my spirits! it is a terrible sight to see how they foamed at the mouth!" "Well, we shall hear by and by what the ambassadors have done—I hope they won't come in to-night with the Hessians, for I am quite unprovided to entertain company." (Observe, Patty, it was I that was in such a fidget and not provided for company)—"Whip the fellows, I got supper enough for twenty of them the first night of the alarm, and I'm resolved I'll trouble myself no more about them till I see some of them in earnest—17 Hessians in town to-day, and we were told the Recorder was desired to prepare a dinner for about 500 men—a friend, from town, called in about 4 o'clock, and told us they were all a-coming. We asked if he had seen them? no! but he heard they were just here—we asked him how we, at this distance from town, should know of their coming; they might pop upon us here and scare us out of our wits—as we had no man in the house—he said, "Oh, you will know of it fast enough, I warrant—why the noise of the cannon and wagons will be heard at a great distance, and I advise you to make good use of your time till they do come, and put all things of gold and silver out of their way, and all linen too, or you will lose it." I said they pillaged none but rebels, and we were not such; we had taken no part against them, &c. But that signified nothing; we should lose all, &c. After he was gone, my S. D. and myself asked each other why it was that all these stories did not put us into a fright—we were not even discomposed; surely it is a favour never to be forgotten. We concluded to sit up a little later than usual to-night, but no rattling could we hear. Ambassadors returned—a report that the congress dollars will be allowed to circulate for a certain number of years—a battery talked of, to be raised at the point of the island. We are told the two pieces of cannon, said to be at Bristol, have disappeared.

Dec. 21st. More snow last night—no danger of gondolas now—more

and we have no right to interfere. He can do much to be expected from him, I think. A man who has been educated about a neutral island; and who has been educated to believe that the men in town don't care for him, and that he is ~~dangerous~~ and that they are after him, get quite different ideas about the Count. D. goes to see the Count. He returns quite well satisfied. W. D. comes at last, tells us that the Count is very ill, and we shall have timely notice of his recovery. We all feel safe and secure, and I hope we shall find safety and security in the neutral island living no man with us in the

D. - We expect the men will come or not as the weather permits. They have been stopped several days. We pity the poor old woman who died last night in the snow. Repeat our thanks to Mrs. D. for her kind care. We have gone to bed and turn a watchful eye on the door, window and doorway, and the creaking of the door and window, and the noise of the fire. Before we retired to bed this evening we asked the children to pronounce "the gates" and "the Dardanelles". Our good neighbour a little concerned to hear us say that we had a school that will be able to interpret for us

the words of the old song. At last by dint of mere conjecture, I think we have got it. D. is a widow and we resolve, *merely*, that she may have a quiet home, and the master thinks it will be a great thing for the children to learn the old song.

D. - 241. P. and P. are now 1000 men apart. Mount Holy, all the men are away from the town except one widow of our acquaintance - this widow is the daughter of a Captain in the army at Bristol, and it is conjectured that she is the mother of the man who is to be executed. More oaks are said to be planted on the hill than ever before, so that the gentlemen who went last to the Count say that he is now more than half buried. No one is allowed to remain a neutral one, because if and when the rest of the men of greater consequence in the country are taken up, there will be none left. Then we don't like the Count quite so well as we did before. We heard yesterday that Gen. Lee was

taken prisoner by a party of light-horse, who surrounded him, and took him to New York, (hope privately that he will not escape); to-day (22d) we hear Gen. Howe is at Trenton, and it is thought there will be an engagement soon. A man who was at Mount Holly the other day, tells us he saw a great many of the British troops—that some of them went to the magazine there [a small room over the court-house] and took out about 100 wooden canteens, and the same number of broken fire-arms, and, calling for a guard of 100 men, piled them up in the street, and ordered the men in derision to take charge of them. This afternoon we hear of our refugee again, and that he has got a protection, as it is called. The rage of tory-hunting a little subsided; we now hear only of the Hessian-hunters; but they make a poor hand of it—not one brought in that we know of. We hear this afternoon that our officers are afraid their men will not fight, and wish they may all run home again. A peaceable man ventured to prophesy to-day that, if the war is continued through the winter, the British troops will besearched at the sight of our men, for as they never fought with naked men, the novelty of it will terrify them, and make them retreat faster than they advanced to meet them; for he says, from the present appearance of our ragged troops, he thinks it probable they will not have clothes to cover them a month or two hence.

Several of the families, who left the town on the day of the cannonading, are returned to their houses; the intelligence brought in this evening is seriously affecting; a party of our men, about 200, marched out of Mount Holly, and meeting with a party of Hessians near a place called Petticoat Bridge, an engagement ensued—the Hessians retreating rather than advancing—a heavy firing of musketry and some cannon heard; we are informed that twenty-one of our men were killed in the engagement, and that they returned at night to their headquarters at Mount Holly, the Hessians to theirs at the Black Horse.

Dec. 23d. This day twelve gondolas came up the river again, but we know not as yet the occasion of their coming; the troops at Mount Holly went out again to-day and engaged the Hessians near the same place where they met yesterday; it is reported we lost ten men, and that our troops are totally routed and the Hessians in possession of Mount Holly. This evening a little alarm in

Dr. Wm. T. Smith, who had been sent up the river to the fort, laid it upon the
other side of the river. The fort was a small square fortification which was
about 1200 feet from the river. It was built in 1776, and had orders to fire on it in
the event of a British attack. The Hessian forces waited to come in after the rest of
the army, and were not expected to be in town until the 17th. About 1000 feet of Mount Holly; happily
the bridge over the river was not destroyed. It seems the com-
munity of Mt. Holly was not informed of the arrival of the inhabitants of it.
W. Smith, J. B. H. and Mr. Br. S. in the evening, and acquainted Gen.
C. Lee, who, they say, told him he had communicated to the commodore the
news of the arrival of the Hessians, that it would probably make it difficult for them to get away. He said if the Hessians were taken to the commodore, he
denied having any information which concerned the inhabitants. It was
thought he might be able to get away safely after at the time. We hear the
Hessians crossed the river and took possession of Church Hill, a little
beyond the fort, about two hours before the opening of the engagement, and ten or twelve hundred yards from the fort. They were by our men run so fast
they had not time to shoot at any of them. Several Hessians in town
to day. They came to Danks Street and bought several articles in the
shop where they resided. Two persons, two were observed to be in liquor in the
street, the rest went to the tavern, and one regular rummer ordered the man to charge
it to the company. We hear that two houses in the skirts of the town were broke
open by the Hessians and plundered. The gondolas have been lying down at
Danks Ferry all this day. A pretty heavy firing heard up the river to day, but
no account yet received of the occasion, or where it was.

Dec. 25th. An officer said to be gone to Bristol from the Count de Nope with a flag, and offers of letting our town remain a neutral post. Gen. Reed at Philadelphia. An express sent to him, and we hear he is to meet the Count to-morrow, at Jno. Autrim's, and settle the preliminaries.

Dec. 26th. Very stormy; we fear Gen. Reed will not meet the Count to-day. A great number of flat-bottom boats gone up the river; we cannot learn where they are going to.

Dec. 27th. A letter from Gen. Reed to his brother, informing him that Washington had had an engagement with the regulars, on the 25th, early in the morning, taking them by surprise; killed 50 and took 900 prisoners—the loss on our side not known, or if known, not suffered to be public. It seems this heavy loss to the regulars, was owing to the prevailing custom among the Hessians, of getting drunk on the eve of that great day which brought peace on earth, and good will to men—but oh! how unlike Christians is the manner in which they celebrate it. Can we call ourselves Christians, while we act so contrary to our master's rules? He set the example which we profess to follow, and here is a recent instance that we only profess it; instead of good will, envy and hatred seem to be the ruling passions in the breasts of thousands. This evening, the 27th, about 3000 of the Pennsylvania militia and other troops landed in the neck, and marched into town with artillery, baggage, &c., and are quartered on the inhabitants. One company were lodged at J. V.'s, and a guard placed between his house and ours; we were so favoured as not to have any sent to our house. An officer spent the evening with us, and appeared to be in high spirits, and talked of engaging the English as a very trifling affair—nothing so easy as to drive them over the North River, &c.; not considering there is a God of battle, as well as a God of peace, who may have given them the late advantage, in order to draw them out to meet the chastisement that is reserved for them.

Dec. 28th. Early this morning the troops marched out of town in high spirits; a flight of snow this morning drove the gondolas again down the river. My heart sinks when I think of the numbers unprepared for death, who will probably be sent in a few days to appear before the Judge of Heaven. The

and the commandant who ordered his soldiers to burn every house in town, and all the houses were captured, where I lived amongst them. I thought I saw a man in the crowd who seemed to me to be a soldier, and when I found it was the well known Captain of the 1st Battalion, Major General G. D. Diego. When I saw the

General I said "Good morning Sir" and he said "Good morning Sir."

He said "I am here to see the damage done to the town, and to the hospital roof, for we have lost many men." He then said "I am sorry to have injured your little flock, and I will do what I can to make amends for the property lost by the people before and around. A good man." Then he said "I am bound to the soldiers just landed, civilly asked a place to stay, and a place to sleep, in which they staved their berrigas and took out the wood to burn the hospital roof." I said "Good morning Sir."

Dec 29th. The General left the town, and the next house prepared to depart, and I said "Good morning Sir" and he said "Good morning Sir, and thank me for the food I sent you." I said "Good morning Sir, I am sorry to say that the house belonging to my master, who owned it, has been destroyed by fire." A great number of soldiers in town to burn the hospital roof, and the roof of the next house when the first left it. They then said "We must have wood to burn the soldiers, and fire wood to burn the hospital roof." This was another of one of the many calamities of war.

Dec 30th. A soldier who had been wounded and wounded brought into town to be treated, and he said "I have a home in one of the in private houses." To day the soldiers came to town to burn wood to procure wood for the soldiers; and the General said "We must have wood to burn the hospital roof, as most of the wagons are burnt, and the horses are dead, and we must take the soldiers' baggage."

Dec 31th. We were told of the battle fought between the two armies, and the result was that they lost 1000 men prisoners, and 300 killed and wounded. The General did not contradict the above intelligence, and there was no reason to doubt it.

Jan 1st 1777. The New Year has not been ushered in with the usual rejoicing, and I am sorry to say, to the beginning of a sorrowful year to very few indeed. Yet the author of the Prodigy, that may look forward with confidence to

Him who can bring out of this confusion the greatest order. I do not hear that any messengers have been in town from the camp.

Jan. 3d. This morning we heard very distinctly a heavy firing of cannon; the sound came from about Trenton, and at noon a number of soldiers, upwards of 1000, came into town in great confusion, with baggage and some cannon. From these soldiers we learn there was a smart engagement yesterday, at Trenton, and that they left them engaged near Trenton mill, but were not able to say which side was victorious. They were again quartered on the inhabitants, and we again exempt from the cumber of having them lodged in our house. Several of those who lodged in Col. Cox's house last week, returned to-night, and asked for the key, which I gave them; about bedtime, I went into the next house to see if the fires were safe, and my heart was melted to see such a number of my fellow-creatures, lying like swine on the floor, fast asleep, and many of them without even a blanket to cover them. It seems very strange to me, that such a number should be allowed to come from the camp at the very time of the engagements, and I shrewdly suspect they have run away—for they can give no account why they came, nor where they are to march next.

Jan. 4th. The accounts hourly coming in, are so contradictory and various, that we know not which to give credit to. We have heard our people have gained another victory—that the English are fleeing before them, some at Brunswick, some at Princeton. We hear to-day that Sharp Delany, and A. Morris, and others of the Pennsylvania militia, are killed, and that the Count de Nope is numbered with the dead; if so, the Hessians have lost a brave and humane commander. The prisoners taken by our troops, are sent to Lancaster jail. A number of sick and wounded brought into town—calls upon us to extend a hand of charity towards them. Several of *my* soldiers left the next house, and returned to the place from whence they came; upon my questioning them pretty close, I brought several to confess they had run away, being scared at the heavy firing on the 3d. There were several pretty innocent-looking lads among them, and I sympathised with their mothers, when I saw them preparing to return to the army.

Jan 5th. I heard today that Capt. Shippoo who threatened to shoot my son if he did not get his sword is dead. I forgot him long ago, for the fight between us was so fierce when I heard he was dead. We are told to day that Genl. M'Graw and Col. L. Miller are dead; what sad havoc will this do for our national soldiery.

Jan 6th. We are told to day that 2000 New England men fell in the late engagement.

Jan 7th. The scenes of the 2nd B'dy, which have been for several days past, are too sad. But the said down the river, except one which is stationed there to the west. I suppose General M'Graw arrived about five this evening for the purpose of the soldiers to march, they hurried away, but returned in time to take care of the wagons, that were to facilitate for them to reach Bordentown to night.

Jan 8th. A 2nd B'dy of 2000 different forces - only one of the number named in the paper, so that I did not sent it, remembering that only one of the 2nd B'dy had been sent to give thanks, not that I would expect to receive any. I was called to render those poor creatures, such a service, but I could not find at the time, perhaps, as a check to the 2nd B'dy, but I did not feel right for being neglected. I went into the room where the 2nd B'dy sat, and I expected to see such loads of provisions and supplies, but there were none. I entreated every one to desire an officer in town to order supplies, but they would have no moments, and desired me to keep it from the publick, but I could not do it, but it was not his to give, and I had no time to go to the office. I sent to another person, who had it taken to the office.

Jan 9th. We have received the news of a corps of 4000 driven the English to Brinsford, and the rest of the army to the latter. As the officers went out of town to see the scene of the battle. A Major of the 2nd B'dy was confirmed by an order of the 2nd B'dy to be a Major. We hear that Washington has sent to buy up a quantity of horses, and has succeeded before going into winter quarters. The water is very cold, and the snow falling has almost filled the river with ice, and

we expect it will be strong enough to walk over in a day or two, and give an opportunity, to those inclined to escape, of crossing over, which, for several weeks past, has been attended with some difficulty ; all the boats belonging to the town being seized upon by the gentlemen of the galleys, and either borne away, or broke to pieces, which they said was done to prevent the Hessians from crossing the river ; and, on the same pretence, a number of bridges have been taken up, and others so much damaged as to make it difficult for travellers to pass from hence to Philadelphia. Several of the soldiers, who were brought into town sick, have died, and it is feared the disorder by which they were afflicted is infectious.

Jan. 11th. Weather very cold, and the river quite shut. I pity the poor soldiers, now on their march, many of whom will probably lay out in the fields this cold night. What cause have I for gratitude, that I and my household are sheltered from the storm ! oh that the hearts of my offspring may learn to trust in the God of their *mother*—He who has condescended to preserve us in great danger, and kept our feet from wandering from the habitation his goodness has allotted to us.

Jan. 12th. We are told to-day of the robbery of one of the commissaries—the sum lost is said to be £10,000. I have not heard who is suspected of committing the robbery. The Earl of B——n,* who quitted his habitation on the first alarm of the Hessians coming in, is returned with his family. We have some hopes that our refugee will be presented with a pair of lawn sleeves, when dignities become cheap, and suppose he will then think himself too *big* to creep into his old auger hole—but I shall remind him of the *place*, if I live to see him created first B——p of B——n.

Jan. 13th. Several of the *tories*, who went out of town while the gondolas were here, are returned, on hearing there has been a general jail-delivery at Philadelphia. One man, who thought himself immovable, has been compelled to swear or sign allegiance to the States.

* Ironical.—Eu.

Jun. 14th.—The *host* the day runs thus— that the New England men have taken Long Island, and are in possession of Kins- Bridge—that Gen. Lee is retaken by his own men—the regulars in a deplorable condition intrenching at Brunswick, and quite hopeless of gaining any advantage over the Americans this campaign. A letter from my dear friend, E. C., informs me her husband's battalion was in the rear of the battle, etc., and behaved remarkably well: they took 200 prisoners, and lost 80 on the field. She acknowledges the preserving hand of Providence in saving him alive through such a scene of blood, &c. I hear Gen. Howe sent a despatch to Washington, desiring three days' cessation of arms, to take care of the wounded, and bury the dead, which was refused; what a woful tendency war has to harden the human heart against the tender feelings of humanity! Well may it be called a *horrid art*, thus to change the nature of man. I thought that even barbarous nations had a sort of religious regard for the dead. A friend from Trenton tells me poor A. Morris died in three hours after he was wounded and was buried in Friend's burying ground, at Stony Brook. A. & Capt. Shapen was buried by him. The same friend told us that a negro named John had his lodg'd at the house of Stacey Potts, at Trenton, in the time of the engagement there, and that Potts's daughter, about the age of nine, went to call him to bed the night preceding the battle, and returning in the morning, and finding her step-father lying dead in his bed, a ball met her, being directed by the merciful hand of Providence— took the comb out of her hair, and gently combed the hair of her head without doing her any further injury: who shall dare to say they are shot at random?

Jun. 15th.—I was a good deal affected this evening, at seeing the hearse in which Gen. Morris's body was conveyed over the river, on the ice, to be buried at Philadelphia; poor Capt. Shapen's body was also taken over, at the same time, to be interred there. P. Reed gave us the following account of a report they heard from a man whom her sister sent to Burlington to bring some things they were in want of the night the last soldiers came into town. Reed's wife hired a wagon to come late, and got one of her neighbours to come and fetch some of her goods. Just as the man began to load the wagon, the soldiers came

running into town, and the man whipped up his horses and drove away without his goods. When he got to Reed's house in the country, he told them there was 10,000 wagons in Burlington,—that Gen. Washington, Lee, Howe, and all the Americans were engaged in battle, in Burlington,—that Washington was mortally wounded, and the streets were full of dead bodies, and that the groans of the dying were still in his ears. They opened their letters in fearful haste, and found nothing relative to what the man told them, nor could they convince him that his fright had magnified the matter, till they sent a person up here to enquire.

* * * A page of the MS. unfortunately missing. * * *

Jan. 31st, 1777. 'The scruples of my own mind being satisfied in keeping my son here till the search was over, I felt peace in the prospect of sending him to my dear brother, C. M. (Dr. Charles Moore), and now that he is gone from me, I feel like a merchant who has ventured *half* his fortune out to sea, anxious for the success of the voyage; oh that it may be a prosperous one to my dear boy—then shall I be happy.'

Feb. 3d. To-day appeared in print, a proclamation of Gen. Washington's, ordering all persons who had taken protections of the king's commissioners, to come in thirty days, and swear allegiance to the United States of America, or else, repair with their families to the lines of the British troops. What will become of our refugee, now!

Feb. 4th. To-day eight boats full of soldiers sailed up the river to join the continental forces; they appeared to be very merry with their drums beating, and colours flying; this is said to be the day appointed for our friends, who are prisoners, to have a hearing before Putnam; a man, who is not a lover of peace, told us it was expected there would be bloody work on the occasion.

Feb. 6th. Several hundred soldiers, who were returning from the camp, were quartered on the inhabitants, and in general, I hear, behaved well.

Feb. 7th. All the soldiers quartered on the town last night, went away to-day. The prisoners taken from our town, and Mount Holly, discharged and returned home; several of them much fatigued, and some sick.

Feb. 11th. This evening two doctors were brought into town, and put into

person for a committee to go up to Boston to the trial of Gen. Putnam, which day was different from the day of trial. They were gathered in a few days.

April 18th. — Jno. Lawrence, T. Evans, Watson, and several other persons, of no name, to the court, who were bound here, and were other bound over to their good behavior until their trial at the next court, to be held *nobody knows where*.

Ap. 147th. — A number of British troops went up the river, and landed at Balauston, and 1500 men remained on the inhabitants there.

Ap. 13th. — A report that there is no arrangement between the British troops and Americans, the other nations. — B. Ellis summoned before the governor, and bidden to answer at the next court for preferring silver dollars to paper. — The King's ships of war met here, and the fleet below.

May 7th. — Capt. Wth and his family came here in order to set off the next day for New York, having received orders from the governor to depart the state. Just as they were setting to land, a captain of the light horse arrived with a party of soldiers, and demanded the keys of his trunks, some of which they opened, and took what money and jewels they could find, and guarded him to his lodgings at R. Smith's, and were all night in his room; they set a guard over him, and in the morning returned, and examined all his trunks, and then went up to him to Phil. English's, where he was to wait on the general, and an avowed soldier, along some of which was, that he was suspected of being a spy, &c. It is however said here, of another way, that he had in a sermon he preached, laid it down as a doctrine of the people, that if they took up arms against the king, they would be rebels, he likewise pleaded innocent to this, and finding they could not prove it against him, they referred him to the governor, who reprimanded him for not taking advantage of a pass he had granted him two or three weeks ago, and at that date, prohibited him from prosecuting his journey to York, and ordered him to remain with his family to Bethlehem, there to remain during their pleasure, and exacted from him a fine of six miles.

May 10th. — The court met here, when several persons, confined in our jail, some told — were examined — Jno. Lawrence released, D. Ellis imprisoned, and

J. Carty fined sixpence, for contempt of court; several ordered back to prison, and R. Smith, B. Helm, T. Hulings, and Collin Campbell examined; R. Smith ordered to pay £100, or be confined in prison; he chose the latter, and accordingly took possession of the room J. L. had quitted; the oaths offered to the three others, which they refusing, were fined.

May 26th. This day Capt. Webb and his family left us to go to Bethlehem. W. D., who some days since received a passport from Gen. Washington, set out for New York with the widow Allen.

June 7th. The reports often coming by expresses, give us reason to believe the English army are in motion, and it is generally supposed they intend to bend their course to Philadelphia.

June 10th. A person from the camp came to town to engage a number of guides (to go back with him,) who were well acquainted with the different roads to Philadelphia, that in case our people should be obliged to retreat, they may not be at a loss.

June 11th. Certain intelligence arrived, per express, that the English are at Bound Brook, the Americans at Morristown.

June 13th. Early this morning the soldiers beat to march from Bristol, and in the course of the day several boats full of soldiers, with the Pennsylvania militia, sailed up the river.

June 14th. Before daylight this morning, the alarm guns, at Princeton, Trenton, Bordentown, and Bristol, were fired, and answered by those below; about 9 o'clock the gondolas and barges began to appear in sight, and from that time, till 9 at night, there have gone up the river five or six gondolas. Several flat-bottomed boats are also gone to Bristol. There is a report of a battle to-day, which seems probable, as we have heard much firing above. By a person from Bordentown, we hear twelve expresses came in there to-day from camp. Some of the gondola men and their wives being sick, and no doctor in town to apply to, they were told that Mrs. M. was a skilful woman, and kept medicines to give to the poor; and notwithstanding their late attempts to shoot my poor boy, they ventured to come to me, and, in a very humble manner, begged me to come and

do something for them. At first I thought they might have a design to put a tax upon me, and get me aboard of their gondola, and then pillage my house, as they had done some others; but on asking where the sick folks were, was told they were lodged in the governor's house. So I went to see them; there were several both men and women very ill with a fever—some said the camp, or infected fever—they were broke out in blotches, and, on close examination, it appeared to be the African fever. I treated them according to art, and they all got well. After which I had received full my pay, when they thankfully acknowledged my kindness. But let me, a short time afterwards, a very rough, ill looking man, came to the door and called for me; when I went to him, he drew me aside, and said, "Sir, I had any friends in Philadelphia? the question alarmed me, supposing there was some machination against that poor city, however I could not tell him more of them, some sisters, and other near friends there.

"Well," said he, "Do you wish to hear from them, or send any thing by way of remittance?" "I do," said I, "I will take charge of it, and bring you the money when you call for it." I was very much surprised, and thought, to begin with, he wanted to stop me from going to the gondolas, when he told me he was one of those I had given my medicine to, and this was the only thanks he could return me for my kindness. My heart leaped with joy, and I sent him a quarter of beef, some rice, tea, coffee, sugar, and about midnight the man called and took his money, and left. He left me at Robert Hopkins's, at the Point, from whence I went to town, and, two nights after, a loud knock at the door, which alarmed us. Opening the chamber window, we found a man standing outside, come down softly and open the door, but bring no light, so as to make his features seen; in such a call, and we concluded to call him a thief, and I said, "Get the kitchen." When we got to the front door, we said, "Who goes there?" the man replied, "A friend open quickly;" so the door was opened, and who should it be but our honest gondola man, with a letter, a basket of rice, some tea, coffee, and sugar, and some other present for my poor boys—all sent by my kind sisters. How did

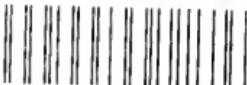
our hearts and eyes overflow with love to them, and thanks to our Heavenly Father, for such seasonable supplies. May we never forget it. Being now so rich, we thought it our duty to hand out a little to the poor around us, who were mourning for want of salt; so we divided the bushel, and gave a pint to every poor person that came for it, and had a great plenty for our own use. Indeed it seemed as if our little store increased by distributing it, like the bread broken by our Saviour to the multitude, which, when he had blessed it, was so marvelously multiplied. One morning, having left my chamber at an earlier hour than usual, and casting my eyes towards the river, was surprised to see some hundreds of boats, all filled with British soldiers. I ran to my dear G. D.'s room, and begged him to get up and see the sight. He went to the window, and I waited to hear what he would say; but as he said nothing, I called out to him, "Brother, what shall we do, now?" He opened his door, and sweetly and calmly said, "Let us, my sister, keep still and quiet; I believe no harm will happen to us;" and indeed we were favoured with remarkable stillness; even the children seemed to partake of it. The boats were ordered up the river to Bordentown, to burn all the gondolas. Poor R. Sutton and his son passing my door, I stopped him, and asked him where he was going; he said, to join the soldiers to march to Bordentown, for the English were going to burn it, and on their return would do the same to Burlington. I begged him not to go, and said, perhaps he would be killed; he said he would go, for all that—next day we heard he was killed. The report was, that some of the militia had fired on the English boats as they were rowing up the river; the firing was returned, and poor Sutton was the first, if not the only one killed; the last boat we saw, was a small one, with only three men and the rowers in it; they were not soldiers; when they came opposite to the town wharf, they stopped rowing, and pulled off their hats and bowed to the people on the wharf. We heard afterwards it was our poor refugee, Doctor S. Burling, and J. Stansbury, who intended to have come on shore and paid us a visit, but so many people appearing on the wharf they thought it safest to take to their oars and follow the fleet. One large vessel, with cannon, was in the fleet, and when they returned, were ordered to fire if they saw soldiers on the

wharf or about the boats. It seems the soldiers had notice of the time when they were to return, and they placed themselves along the shore, quite down to the ferry at 4 o'clock. First day afternoon, and all the family, but myself, gone to meeting, and I was lying on the bed, and hearing a large gun, looked out of the window, and saw the large ship so close to our landing that I thought they were coming ashore; when, behold! they fired two or three of their great guns, which shook the house, and went through the walls of our next door neighbour, who was a captain in the rebel army. I still kept at the window, unapprehensive of danger, and seeing a man on the deck, talking, and pointing to my house, one of them said, "In that house lives a woman to whom I am indebted for my life; she sheltered me when I was driven from my own house," &c. This I was afterward told by a person who heard it; it is needless to add it was our poor refugee. I really think they have made an end of the gondolas; I hope never to see another. A rebel quarter master, who had received some little civilities from my S. D. and myself, asked me one day, if I did not wish to see my friends in Philadelphia, I said it was the wish nearest my heart; he said he would accompany me as far as Frankfort, if I would promise to take no kind of provision with me, and that he would meet me at the same place, and conduct me home again. Such an offer was not to be slighted. I went to my friend, A. O., and told her it he would venture to bear me company. She joyfully agreed, and we borrowed a horse and chaise, and early next morning set out. Our quarter master bore our friend, and good neighbour, J. V. went with us to the ferry, to see us off over. We got to A. Jones' place in the afternoon, and sent notice to our friend in town, and next meeting my father, brothers, Moore and Wells, and my two sisters with Dr. O. & sometimes at Kensington, for they dared not go farther than that before the Battle began. I believe there never was a more heart-trending meeting. I did not see my brother and sisters for many months, and the last few weeks unprovided with, and the probability of this being the last time we might possibly see them together with the reports of the great scarcity of provisions, & so when I said the word, & then, said, contributed to make it an awfully exciting meeting. My sister went to A. J.'s place and dined with me.

A. O. stayed with her husband till evening, when my dear sisters left me and returned to town. The parting was almost too much for me. I thought we were taking a last farewell of each other, but part we must; they went to town, and Nancy and myself retired soon to bed, expecting our quarter-master to call on us by daylight, but no news did we hear of him; but a heavy firing in the morning made us fearful we should not get safe home. About nine o'clock some stragglers stopped at our quarters, and said there had been a skirmish between the English and Americans, and, more terrible still, that parties were ordered out to bring in all they should meet with; this intelligence made us conclude to venture homewards without our guide; we got into our chair and whipped and cut our dull horse at a strange rate. Several parties passed and repassed, and questioned us about whence we came, and where we were going—they said if we were going to Burlington, we should be stopped at the ferry and taken to Washington's head quarters; for there was a report that women had been into town and brought out goods. We kept our minds pretty calm, hoping that if we got safe to the ferry, as we were so well known, we should meet no more dangers, and we got along well till we got to the hill beyond the Red Lion, which being very bad, and we still pressing our poor horse to make more haste, he made one violent exertion to reach the top of the hill, when, to our utter dismay, the swingletree broke, and the chair began to roll down the hill. We both jumped out at the same instant; Nancy held the horse while I rolled a stone behind the wheel, and there we stood afraid to stir from the horse, and thinking we should be obliged to leave the chair, and lead the horse home. At last we ventured to the door of a small house hard by; a man came out, and with the help of Nancy's ribbons and my garters, fixed us off, and we once again mounted the chair, and walked the horse till we came near the Bristol road, where we heard the ferry was guarded, and none suffered to cross. However we kept on, and at length reached the ferry, where, instead of armed men, we could hardly find one man to put us over. At last we got over, and now being on our own shore, we began like people just escaped from shipwreck, to review the dangers past, and congratulate ourselves on our arrival in a safe port; and I hope not without a sincere,

thought about me now, and most at the good hand that had vonch'd to bring me off croaking from home's seductions. When we arrived at my door, Mrs. S. D. had the maid and her children all sitting with her; her husband was at home, armed ready with apprehensions for our safety. As we had stayed longer than we intended it was conjectured by our wise neighbour, J. V., that we had lost the horse, had happened nothing less than that the horse, which was his, had been sold and we kept on Pennsylvania. Rd. Smith, who lent the carriage, was very alarmed for the fate of his carriage, and S. H., who loudly recommended us to the expedition, said we were certainly turned to head-quarters; but as Nonie had run away and was in the British pay, it would go hard with her for us to get back again; all their wise conjectures proved like the croaking of the crow, for at last of all, we appeared before them in our proper persons, before the alarm was announced. Some cried out, where's the horse? where's the carriage? where have you been? &c. &c. We gaily told them all was safe, then sat down to tea, and dined for, and rehearsed all we had seen, heard, and suffered; when Mr. S. D. seriously advised never to engage again in such a perilous venture, and I very seriously assured them that if we did we would look out for our own horses and drivers, and be our own guides; for that our late master, the King, had been a bad master, was like a whet to an hungry appetite, and the first appetizer for his dinner.

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